

USSN 09/470,360

See, column 9, lines 48-65. If this teaching were applied to a process for production of ethyl acetate, the result would be recovery of acetic acid from a second distillation and returning it to the reactor to produce more ethyl acetate. In other words, Papa teaches only a simple recycle of the acid reactant from the second distillation. Papa provides no teaching or suggestion to recover ethyl acetate in a first distillation and directing it to the reactor for formation of the azeotrope in the first distillation.

Conclusion

Consistent with the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Final Rejection. An early Notice of Allowance for claims 6-11 is respectfully solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below so that all matters may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,



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